Roots & Foundations 1904–1924

Helen Storrow with her dog Mr. Pepys at Long Pond, 1920

The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Waltham, MA

"John Raymond built us all a camp
He built it near a Plymouth swamp
The waters rose till they came to the door
And we found ourselves on Long Pond's Shore."

— Helen O. Storrow

Pre–1700 Long Pond area used by Wampanoag communities for seasonal fishing and foraging

1904

1911 English Folk Dance Society (EFDS) founded in England by Cecil Sharp

1912 Girl Scouts founded in the US

1914 August England entered World War I

1915

1916 Shakespeare Tercentenary

1917 April US entered World War I

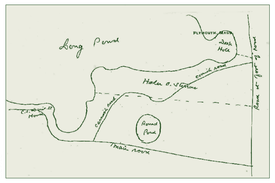
1918 November End of World War I

1918–19 Flu epidemic

1923 The Scottish Country Dance Society founded in Glasgow by Ysobel Stewart and Jean Milligan

1924

Helen Osborne Storrow's passions for the great outdoors, social activism, and folk dancing planted the seed for Pinewoods Camp. The English Folk dance revival—along with preparations for Shakespeare's 300th anniversary—arrived in Boston simultaneously with the new Girl Scout movement. Over time she combined these interests on Long Pond's shore at Pine Tree Camp.



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1904 Long Pond property map sketched in a letter to Helen Storrow by her lawyer, Charles Davis

The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Waltham, MA

Helen Storrow

1710 Long Pond area land distributed to settlers and used for timber harvest, herring runs, and agriculture

1880–1920 Pond-accessible land acquired and divided for summer use by wealthy urbanites

1899 In England, Cecil Sharp saw the Headington Morris men dance on Boxing Day (Dec 26) and heard William Kimber play. The next day Sharp notated all of Kimber's tunes, beginning a life-long relationship of mutual respect. In 1903 Cecil Sharp collected his first folk song. Collecting dances came later.

Wikimedia

Cecil Sharp

1904 Helen Storrow bought 40 acres of land along Long Pond.

1912 Shakespeare scholar George P. Baker, a Harvard professor of dramatic literature and playwriting, visited Stratford-on-Avon in England. He invited Claud Wright, a member of Cecil Sharp's demonstration dance team, to America to teach English dances in preparation for the Shakespeare Tercentenary.

1913–1914 George Baker arranged for Claude Wright to teach at two summer schools in Eliot, Maine. Helen Storrow danced with him in Boston, traveled to Stratford-on-Avon the next summer, and joined the English Folk Dance Society. (EFDS).

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Claud Wright dancing on the Storrow Lawn, Lincoln, Massachusetts

1914 August England entered World War I. The next spring Claud Wright enlisted instead of returning to America.

"Bind on thy sandals,
O thou most fleet,
Over the splendour
and speed of thy feet."

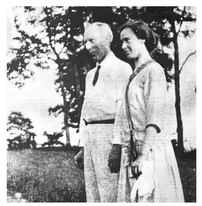
Artwork and caption from a publication featuring Lily Roberts Conant Morris dancing

Conant Family Collection

1914 December Cecil Sharp arrived in New York City to choreograph and teach music for a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. All things English were popular due to the war and Sharp hoped to promote the EFDS.

1915 January Cecil Sharp met Helen Storrow for the first time, in Boston.

March The US Branch of EFDS founded with affiliates in Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, and New York; Pittsburgh and St. Louis added in 1916



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Cecil Sharp and Lily Roberts, Eliot, Maine, 1915

1915 May Lily Roberts, a young EFDS teacher, was invited to the US by Cecil Sharp and Helen Storrow to direct a production at Wellesley College and teach at the EFDS summer school.

August August First EFDS US Branch Summer School offered in Eliot, Maine, directed by Cecil Sharp with three English teachers: Maud Karpeles, Nora Jervis, and Lily Roberts.

Lily Roberts stayed in the US to represent EFDS. Cecil Sharp hoped she would travel the country opening new centers, but the work was non-salaried. She did travel and teach, but most of her work was in Boston. Mrs. Storrow promised Lily's family she would support and look after Lily like a daughter.

1916 Helen Storrow's interest in the new Girl Scout movement grew. She created the first Girl Scout Leadership Training School, hiring staff with wide-ranging expertise, and held it in Boston its first three years. She took an active role, leading both discussions and singing around the campfire each evening.

1917 Summer schools continued, but, due to the war, participation in dance diminished and interest in scouting grew.

Conant Family Collection

1917 December Richard K. Conant, lawyer, child labor activist, and social worker, married Lily Roberts. He joined the war effort in France in the spring of 1918.

John Raymond lived on Round Pond. Helen Storrow engaged him to build all the original pre-World War II buildings at Camp, starting with a cabin for herself and one for Lily Roberts.

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1918 With summer school canceled because of the war, the EFDS USA Branch dissolved. Later, Boston and NYC dancers formed independent EDFS Branches.

1919 Local builder John Raymond constructed the Camphouse.

Pine Tree Camp opened to host the Girl Scout Leadership Training School.

1920 John Raymond built the dining "mess hall" (now Ampleforth), an office (now Program Center), and part of the Square.

1924 Cecil Sharp died in June. Helen Storrow commissioned housing: Grenoside and Royton, and a large dance pavilion: C#.

Girl Scout Leadership trainees participated in a flag ceremony twice a day in front of the Camphouse, 1922

The Girl Scout Museum at Cedar Hill, Waltham, MA

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Dining in the "mess hall" (now Ampleforth). Camphouse in background, 1924 or 1925

100 YEARS Pinewoods 2025

Where dance, music, and song traditions thrive.